

Firearms Protocol:

ROG 16-101 8/2020

When and Where You Can Shoot

Historical Precedent

Using firearms for hunting and target shooting is popular with residents and visitors to the Central Sierra Nevada mountains. The Mother Lode has a long history of firearm use and the integral role it played in settling the West. The variety of game on the forest usually means good hunting opportunities during appropriate seasons, as outlined in California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations.

Shooting In the forest

Visitors are welcome to use firearms within the boundaries of the Stanislaus National Forest, but they must follow the existing gun laws of the state of California. Visit the California Department of Justice Bureau of Firearms website for further information at

<https://oag.ca.gov/firearms>

Restrictions In Effect

Visitors may not shoot any firearm, air rifle or gas gun (including BB guns) within the boundaries of the Emigrant, Carson-Iceberg or Mokelumne wilderness areas, except by in-season licensed hunters. [36 CFR 261.58 (m)].

Special restricted areas exist where firearm use is limited or prohibited:

- You may not carry a loaded firearm in a state game refuge. The nearest refuge is located between the North and Middle Forks of the Stanislaus River. In these areas your weapon must be broken down (trigger assembly removed from housing) and kept separate from ammo.
- You may not discharge any firearm in the Donnell Lake area on the Summit Ranger District, or in the designated area next to the Penny Pines Plantation on the Calaveras Ranger District

Concealing a firearm

You may not carry a concealed firearm, either in a vehicle or on your person, unless you have a valid permit to do so. You cannot carry a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle. A weapon is considered loaded if the ammo is in, or attached to, a weapon — such as in a loaded clip or magazine. During hunting season, the



clip or magazine may be in the weapon but the round cannot be chambered in the weapon. (California Penal Code)

Discharging a firearm

You may not discharge a firearm from a vehicle. You may not discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or other occupied area. You also may not discharge a firearm across, or on, a forest road, a body of water, or in anywhere a person or property would be exposed to injury or damage from such a discharge. [(36 CFR 261.10 (d) and California Gun Laws)]

- Use approved targets. Certain forests may have specific restrictions, such as the type of targets used (i.e. cardboard targets, paper targets, clay pigeons).
- Exploding targets are not recommended and are restricted on many forests or grasslands for safety and fire concerns.
- Use approved targets along with a safe, "bullet-proof" backstop. Do not to attach your targets to vegetation or structures, such as; trees, log decks, slash piles, fences, or water tanks.

Practice safe gun handling by:

- Treating every gun as if it is loaded.
- Never letting the muzzle of a firearm point at anything you do not intend to shoot.
- Keeping your finger off of the trigger until your sights are on the target and you are ready to shoot.
- Making sure of your target and what is beyond.
- Are not in possession of alcoholic beverages while discharging a firearm.



Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
"Caring for the land and serving people"

Stanislaus National Forest
www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus
Email: SM.FS.StanislausNF@usda.gov

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Help keep the forest safe and clean

We ask that visitors to the Forest who may witness shooting incidents or actions involving firearms that they believe are not in accordance with established local, state or federal policy, to report such occurrences to appropriate law enforcement officials.

We also request that target shooters practice Leave No Trace® and pickup and dispose of all spent shell casings, clay pigeon target remnants, paper target remnants or anything else associated with the activity. Please take any trash, empty ammo boxes or anything else brought into the forest by you or members of your shooting party with you when you leave.

The target shooting area should be in as good (or better) condition when you depart as it was when you arrived.

Should you have any additional questions about any Forest recreational opportunity—please contact one of the offices listed below:

Stanislaus National Forest

19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-3671

Summit Ranger District

#1 Pinecrest Lake Road
Pinecrest, CA 95364
(209) 965-3434

Groveland Ranger District

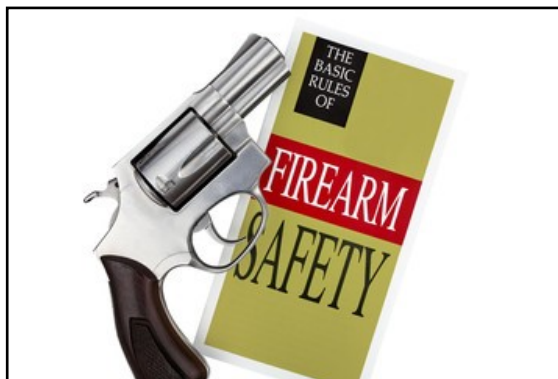
24545 Hwy 120
Groveland, CA 95321
(209) 962-7825

Calaveras Ranger District

5519 Hwy 4
PO Box 500
Hathaway Pines, CA 95323
(209) 795-1381

**ABOVE ALL
SAFETY FIRST !**

It is the responsibility of those wishing to shoot weapons to be aware of existing law and regulations in effect pertaining to the discharge of firearms within the Forest. It is the responsibility of those wishing to shoot weapons to be aware of existing law and regulations in effect pertaining to the discharge of firearms within the Forest.



Know the rules before you shoot!

Practice safe gun handling!

- ⇒ Treat every gun as if it is loaded
- ⇒ Never let the muzzle of a firearm point at anything you do not intend to shoot
- ⇒ Keep your finger off of the trigger until your sights are on the target and you are ready to shoot
- ⇒ Make sure of your target and what is beyond
- ⇒ Never possess alcoholic beverages while discharging a firearm



For more information on shooting on National Forest lands, visit

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/visit/know-before-you-go/shooting>